

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:357
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
TARGET OF VARIOUS AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the target of various agriculture products and their actual production during 2001-02 and 2002-03;
- (b) the reasons for lesser production;
- (c) the target fixed for the production of various foodgrains during 2003-2004; and
- (d) the outline prepared by the Government in the Tenth Five Year Plan to augment the agriculture production?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 357 DUE FOR REPLY ON 7TH APRIL, 2003.

(a): The targets and estimated production of various agricultural commodities during 2001-02 and 2002-03 are shown in the table below:

(In million tones)

Crop	2001-02	2002-03#
------	---------	----------

	Target	Production	Target	Production
--	--------	------------	--------	------------

Rice	92.00	93.08	93.00	77.72
Wheat	78.00	71.81	78.00	68.89
Coarse Cereal	33.00	33.94	33.00	25.10
Pulses	15.00	13.19	16.00	11.46
Total Foodgrains	218.00	212.03	220.00	183.17
Oilseeds	28.00	20.46	27.00	15.44

Second Advance Estimates as on 10.2.2003.

(b): Realization of targets depends on a number of factors such as performance of monsoon, technological developments, farm management skills, timely application of inputs, demand of agricultural produce, etc. In particular, the agricultural production in the country is greatly influenced by the extent and spread of rainfall as about 60% of net area sown is dependent on rains for water. Deficient rainfall also adversely affects the irrigation potential. During 2002-03 the targets of production could not be achieved mainly because of severe drought conditions in several States during the year.

(c): The targets for 2003-04 are yet to be fixed.

(d): In order to facilitate achievement of higher growth rate in agriculture, it is necessary to implement policies and programmes aimed at improving agricultural production and productivity. With this object in view, various crop production schemes like Integrated Cereals Development Programmes for Rice, Wheat & Coarse Cereals, National Pulses Development Programme, Sponsored oilseeds Production Programme and Seed Minikit Scheme are being implemented during the Tenth Plan. To reduce water run-off from major catchment areas, improve land capability and moisture regime the Government are implementing the schemes 'Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in Catchments of River Valley Projects/Flood Prone Rivers' and 'Watershed Development

Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas`. Besides, the Regionally Differentiated Strategy adopted during the Ninth Plan would be continued during the Tenth Plan. As a new initiative, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme `On Farm Water Management for Increasing Crop Production in Eastern India` has been launched in March 2002 for the year 2001-02 and the Tenth Five Year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to exploit ground/surface water, and promote efficient water utilization and management for increasing crop production in eastern India. Apart from these, the Government have launched various other initiatives such as emphasis on developing and promoting new technologies, measures for increasing availability of agricultural credit, Market Information Network, National Agriculture Insurance Scheme etc. The Government also encourage farmers to increase production through price policy which includes implementation of Minimum Support Price, procurement by public agencies etc. Moreover, the Tenth Plan document has underscored the importance of adequate thrust on maize, especially the multiplication of high yielding seeds on a massive scale and adoption of improved technology. In addition, thrust on commercialization of hybrid rice on a large scale and application of improved technologies in wheat could further boost foodgrains production. The Tenth Plan document also lays emphasis on crop diversification in to high value/more remunerative crops.